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A STUDY
Relating to
MENTAL ILLNESS, MENTAL DEFICIENCY,
AND EPILEPSY

in a
SELECTED RURAL COUNTY



Issued by
THE EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

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in a

SELECTED RURAL COUNTY

A PRIVATELY FINANCED STUDY PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED

By

THE EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

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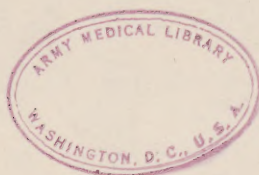
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FOREWORD

With the assistance of a grant of private funds, the Eugenics Board of North Carolina was able to secure the part-time services of Mr. George H. Lawrence from June, 1945, through September, 1946, to make a special study relating to mental illness, mental deficiency, and epilepsy in a selected rural county. All field work was done by Mr. Lawrence, as well as the preparation of the first draft of the report.

The Division of Research and Statistics of the State Board of Public Welfare coded the schedules and compiled the tables used in the report.

The final draft of the report was edited by the Executive Secretary of the Eugenics Board. Some additional study was made of the Eugenics Board records for all petitions filed for residents of the county in which the study was made.

The Eugenics Board recognizes that in a study of this type it is very difficult to secure reliable factual information. Material recorded in the files of health and social agencies, while adequate for the purposes for which it was originally intended, often was insufficient to give a complete and accurate picture for purposes of this study. Throughout the process of gathering data segments of information secured from one source had to be related to additional information secured from other sources. Positive identification of the individuals involved was often difficult. At times conflicting information had to be evaluated.

It is likewise recognized that the basic data from which the study was developed was subject to the personnel bias of the individuals doing the original recording. The diagnoses and information appearing in the case records had to be accepted at face value unless the record indicated that they were based on the personal opinions

of the individual and not the diagnoses of a competent examiner.

It is not possible to draw many definite conclusions from a study of this kind. Although attempts were made to locate all recorded information that was available regarding persons known to be feeble-minded, epileptic or mentally ill, some recorded information would necessarily be overlooked. Most of the agencies did not have their records filed according to these classifications. Only a few of the agencies had compiled their records exclusively because individuals fell within one of these groups. It was necessary for staff members of other agencies to try to clear the records in which information of this type would appear.

Likewise, information has been included in the study which might have been omitted if some of the individuals could have been given individual psychological tests or psychiatric examinations. Group testing has resulted in some potential cases of feeble-mindedness being included which might have been excluded as the result of more careful individual study.

Since the records of the different agencies were compiled for various purposes, the information desired was frequently not available. Often some specific type of desired information was found for only a limited number of cases. The number of cases known to the Eugenics Board was, likewise, too small a number from which to draw many definite conclusions.

Care has been taken to evaluate the information secured, eliminate the schedules for individuals about whom there was some doubt, and to draw only general conclusions. Taking into account these qualifications, it is believed that the study has value in terms of indicating areas which need further investigation.

A STUDY RELATING TO MENTAL ILLNESS, MENTAL DEFICIENCY AND EPILEPSY IN A SELECTED RURAL COUNTY

INTRODUCTION

In 1945 the Eugenics Board of North Carolina received a grant of private funds to augment its work. It was agreed that a study of a selected rural county would be made to secure specific information regarding the possible extent of mental illness and deficiency. It was believed that such information would be of value to the Board in interpreting its functions and in securing increased utilization of its program on a State-wide basis.

Although previous studies had rather clearly indicated that North Carolina possessed its full share of problems relating to both mental disease and mental defects, the Eugenics Board was hopeful of securing more complete data in a sample area. The 1937 report of a special commission appointed by the Governor, known as the "Thompson Study",^{1/} estimated that approximately 9,779 persons would be needing care in State hospitals by 1950. A section of this report dealing with mental deficiency included the results of mental tests given to the white school children in a typical North Carolina town. It showed that 4.5 per cent of the white children tested were mentally defective. Applying this percentage to the total white school population of the State, there would be 27,734 mental defectives among this group.^{2/} A year later the Negro school children of the same town were examined. The results showed a higher rate of defectiveness.^{3/} These findings, however, must take into consideration the possibility that the tests might not measure satisfactorily the intelligence of Negroes.

Objectives of Study—The general objectives of the study undertaken in 1945 were to find out as specifically as possible not only the extent of mental disease and mental defects in a fairly typical North Carolina county but also to secure available pertinent data regarding each individual classified as mentally ill or mentally deficient.

Although the Eugenics Board, by reason of its official duties, was particularly interested in securing information bearing directly upon sterilization, it was also concerned with the total problems of the mentally ill and the mentally defective. It was hoped, therefore, that the study would bring to light factors of value regarding the problem as a whole and point to the place of sterilization in a program for treatment and prevention of mental disease and mental defects.

Basis for Selection of County—The particular county was selected for a variety of reasons. It was considered to be typical of the average North Carolina county. According to the 1940 census this county ranked only slightly above the median of county populations in the State. In 1940 the population was divided between white and Negro in nearly the same proportion as that for the State as a whole. Of the county population 15,806 or 68.5 per cent was native born white, 7,161 or 31 per cent Negro and 105 or .5 per cent foreign born. For the State as a whole the white population was 71.8 per cent and the Negro 27 per cent. The county population was 84.1 per cent rural in comparison to 72.7 per cent rural for the State as a whole.^{4/} This county ranked 46th among the 100 counties of the State in the total assessed value of all property; real, tangible, personal and excess.^{5/}

During the previous 15 years the agencies and officials of this county had recognized the importance of mental conditions. The policies of the department of public welfare with the active support and approval of the County Board of Public Welfare and of the Board of County Commissioners had been distinctly favorable towards the use of eugenical sterilization. Although the Eugenics Board had authorized sterilization for only 30 individuals on petitions filed by the county department of public welfare, sterilizations so initiated were more numerous than in other counties except for four with larger populations. When such sterilizations are compared

1/ *A Study of Mental Health in North Carolina*: Report to the North Carolina Legislature of the Governor's Commission, appointed to study the care of the insane and mental defectives.

2/ *Ibid.*, p. 256.

3/ *A Study of Negro and White Pupils in Piedmont, North Carolina*: Special Bulletin No. 16, N. C. Board of Charities and Public Welfare, pp. 18 and 22.

4/ 16th Census of the United States: 1940, U. S. Bureau of the Census. Population—First Series, Number of Inhabitants, North Carolina.

5/ Report of the Department of Tax Research, 1942, pp. 286-289.

with the population, this county has the highest ratio of any North Carolina county, being 173 per 100,000 population. The proximity and availability of facilities for expert mental examinations had long been recognized by the county department of public welfare whose superintendent and staff members often utilized these resources.

A preliminary survey indicated that considerable recorded information on mental conditions was available in this county, the following agencies having such information:

1. *The Eugenics Board* possessed detailed records of all residents of the county who had officially been brought to its attention for sterilization.

2. *The Division of Psychiatric and Psychological Services* of the State Board of Public Welfare had records on mental examinations of a considerable number of individuals who since 1923 had been referred to it and its predecessor, the Division of Mental Hygiene.

3. *The County Department of Public Welfare* had in its files about 2,500 case records, many of which included rather detailed case histories. Some of these records dated back to 1924 when the county public welfare program first became organized. A few even preceded that date since some pioneering in public welfare had been undertaken by another agency. Many of these records contained information relating to mental conditions.

4. *The Emergency Relief Administration* had about 2,200 case records compiled during the period 1932-35. Since the superintendent of public welfare had been responsible for the local administration of this program, these particular records were available through the county department of public welfare.

5. *Selective Service Board* records contained information on mental conditions relating to individuals rejected for military service.

6. *Court Records*, especially those of the Superior Court, contained data on commitments of individuals to institutions for the mentally ill or defective.

7. The records of the *State Institutions* caring for the mentally ill and the mentally defective could be sources of information.

8. *School records* contained information con-

cerning factors which might have an important bearing upon mental conditions, especially mental defects. Records of achievement tests, promotions, grades repeated, attendance and ages constituted a secondary source of information.

9. *The Public Health Department* with its extensive records on physical health was assumed to have some pertinent data even though of a somewhat secondary nature.

Methodology—Since it was known that the records of the various agencies differed considerably as to the specific items of information recorded, a comprehensive work sheet was devised, a sample of which is given in the appendix. This was formulated from an appraisal of the forms used by the Eugenics Board with variations as indicated by the objectives of the study. A work sheet was prepared containing sufficient details to enable the compilation of the wide range of information which would be available in the various individual records consulted.

The nine sources of recorded information previously listed were examined in considerable detail. Work sheets were filled out for all individuals who had been classified by presumably competent authorities as possibly suffering from mental disease or showing mental deficiency. By eliminating duplications, deaths, and removals from the county the final number of individuals included in the study was 922. A master file card index was used to clear the records of individuals known to more than one agency.

The first records consulted were the county department of public welfare records of 52 individuals who had come to the official attention of the Eugenics Board. Since the county superintendent of public welfare is responsible for instituting proceedings before the Eugenics Board, detailed case records were available in the county.

The records of commitments by the Clerk of the Superior Court to institutions for mentally ill or defective persons over a period of 10 years accounted for 85 individuals. These records provided little information beyond names and dates of commitments. It was necessary to secure information from the State institutions on all county residents committed during the period July 1, 1935, to June 30, 1945.

Permission was secured to examine, for statistical purposes, the records of the local Selective Service Board. This phase of the study involved the examination of the records of all rejectees. Schedules were included for 681 persons having

a diagnosis indicating potential mental illness or defectiveness.

Since the mental examinations given to residents of the county by the Division of Psychiatric and Psychological Services of the State Board of Public Welfare and its predecessor, the Division of Mental Hygiene, had been instigated almost without exception by the county department of public welfare, case histories were available locally.

The records of the county department of public welfare constituted the main clearing house for information on a large number of individuals for whom data had originally been secured elsewhere. Data regarding other individuals were added upon the basis of the case histories of the department of public welfare.

The records of the Department of Public Health were not consulted routinely but in some instances proved of supplementary value.

Within the first three months of the study it was determined that it would be necessary to have considerable group testing of school children

to secure evidence of mental conditions. Arrangements were subsequently made for group intelligence tests of all of the elementary school children of the county.^{6/}

Difficulties encountered during the study are shown in the forward. Many individuals who were assumed by staff members to be mentally ill or defective were not included in the study since a definite determination by a competent examiner had not been made.^{7/} The study did not attempt to pass judgment upon the validity of the diagnoses appearing in the records but accepted at face value the particular designation or classification indicated.

FINDINGS OF STUDY

Sources of Information—In order to evaluate properly the findings of the study, consideration must be given first to the sources from which information was secured. Table 1 shows by agency the number of records used as sources of information.

Table 1. Agency Records Used as Sources of Information

AGENCY	Number of records consulted
Total.....	1,383
Selective Service	681
Department of Public Welfare	430
State institutions for mentally ill or feeble-minded.....	86
Clerk of Superior Court	85
Eugenics Board	52
Others	45
Unknown	4

Information regarding 486 individuals was secured from only one source of which 387 were Selective Service Board records. Information was secured from the records of two agencies for 348 persons, of three agencies for 49 persons, of four agencies for 11 persons, and of five agencies for 2 persons.

The Selective Service records used were for selectees rejected for a large number of reasons. Some of these were for definite mental illnesses or deficiencies. The following are illustrative of diagnoses made for these persons: schizophrenia; psychoneurosis, severe; hysteria conversion; epilepsy; anxiety state and mental deficiency. Other

reasons, such as fails to meet minimum intelligence standards, constitutional psychopathic state, inadequate personality, emotional instability, and multiple neurotic complaints, suggested that with more complete individual examinations mental abnormalities might not have been found. These have, however, been included in this study. Even in the group classified as mentally deficient,

^{6/} Results of these tests were not routinely added to this study. They were added only for children for whom schedules had been made from use of the above nine sources. Results of these tests have been published separately. Dr. O. M. Jordan, "Testing the Intelligence of the School Children of a Rural County," *The High School Journal*, Vol. 30, No. 1, Jan.-Feb. 1947, pp. 35-45.

^{7/} Schedules relating to 161 individuals were omitted from the tabulations since a definite determination of mental illness or mental deficiency had not been made.

of which there were 106, careful individual re-testing would doubtless have eliminated some from the study.

The Department of Public Welfare is responsible for the administration of many programs. No conclusions, therefore, could be drawn regarding the fact that 430 individuals were known to that agency unless a detailed study was made regarding the type of request made to that agency and the services rendered by it. Information was obtained from State institutions for most of the individuals known to the clerk of the Superior Court resulting in at least two sources of information for most of these persons. Institutions reported that 65 of these persons were inmates of the institutions at the time the study was made.

Age, Sex and Race—Since the Selective Service records which related only to the male population of the county were the chief source of information, an unequal number of records were available for the two sexes. Although according to the 1940 census there were only 182 more males than females in the county, information was found for 662 more males than females. Information was available for 6.8 per cent of the male population of the county. Since Selective Service records related primarily to males 18 to

38 years of age, there was likewise a disproportionate amount of information available for this age group. Of the Selective Service records 622 were for men 18 to 38 years of age, only 59 for men over 38 years of age, and none for men below 18 years of age.

The case records of the various agencies were compiled over a period of years. In order to secure uniform information the age of the individual at the time of the study was computed. This age was used rather than the age of the person at the time of the compilation of any particular case record.

There was a disproportionate amount of information available for the two races, 55.2 per cent of the cases being Negro and 44.8 per cent white.^{8/} In evaluating the information by racial breakdown, it must be remembered, as pointed out in the Thompson study,^{9/} that there is a question regarding the extent to which present tests are a satisfactory measure of the intelligence of Negroes.

Table 2 gives the age, race, and sex of the potentially mentally ill, mentally deficient, and epileptic persons in the county. Chart 1 also shows the age and race for the same group of persons.

Table 2. Age, Race, and Sex of Potential Mentally Ill, Mentally Deficient, and Epileptic Persons in County.

AGE	Total	White			Negro		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
Total.....	922	413	334	79	509	458	51
Under 21 years of age.....	166	70	56	14	96	83	13
21-29 years of age.....	368	151	132	19	217	199	18
30-39 years of age.....	292	124	106	18	168	156	12
40-49 years of age.....	50	34	24	10	16	12	4
50-59 years of age.....	21	17	7	10	4	2	2
60 years or over.....	9	6	3	3	3	2	1
Not reported	16	11	6	5	5	4	1

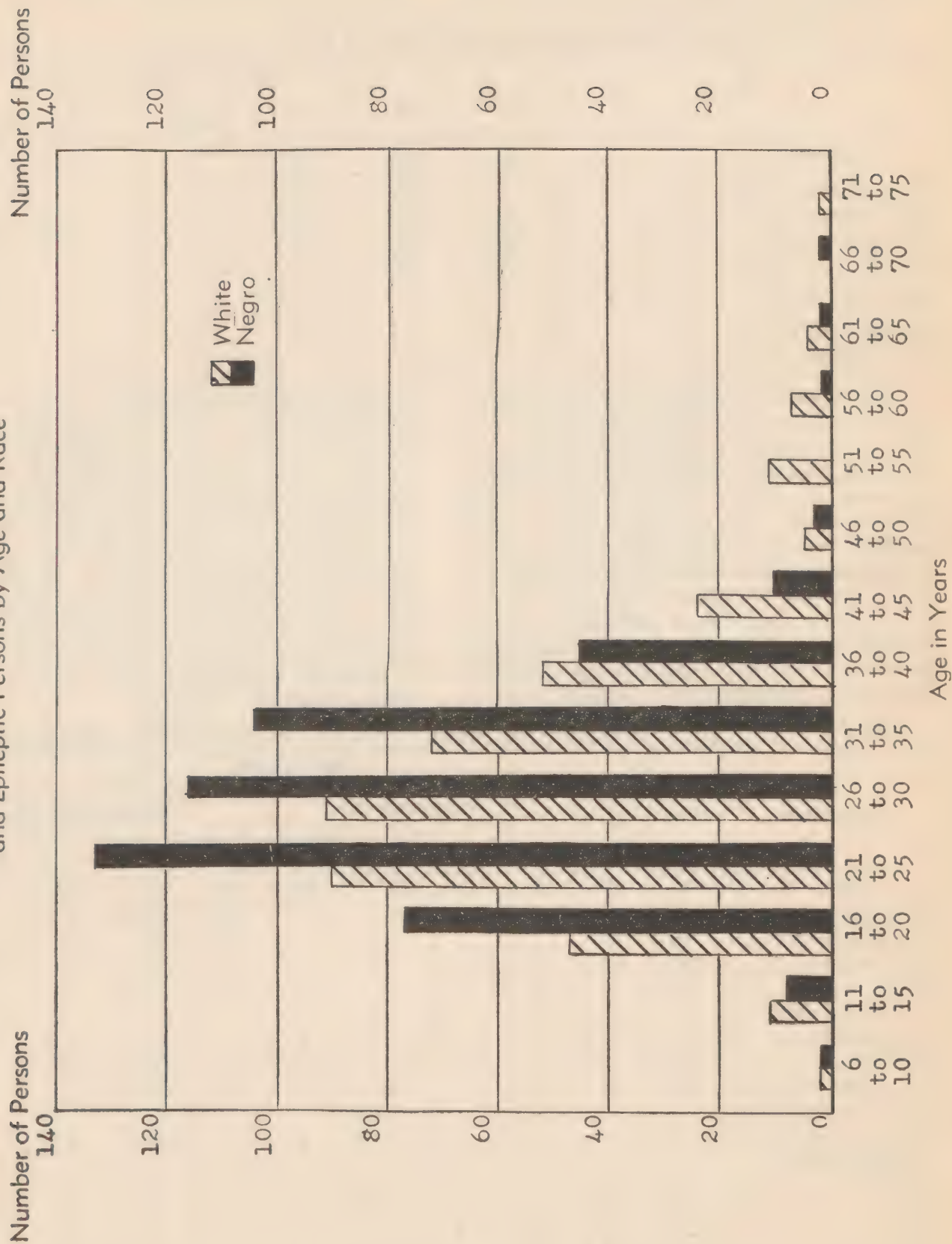
The Eugenics Board is interested in the consideration of the marital status of individuals in relation to their age groupings. The Board, while concerned about the welfare of children prior to their maturity, takes official action only for persons who have reached the age of physical maturity. Likewise, no official action is taken relative to persons no longer capable of reproduction. The

marital status shown in this study is given according to the latest information available in any of the case records. It is recognized that the marital status of many had changed by the time the study was made. Since some of the records were four to five years old, many of the persons

^{8/} See pages 1 and 2 for racial distribution of the total county population.
^{9/} *Study of Mental Health in North Carolina*, op. cit., p. 257.

Chart I.

Number of Potential Mentally III, Mentally Deficient,
and Epileptic Persons by Age and Race



classified as single probably had married. It is also possible that some persons might have considered themselves as being single, if at the time

the record was made, they were not living with the spouse. Table 3 gives the marital status by age groups of persons included in the study.

Table 3. Age and Marital Status of Potential Mentally Ill, Mentally Deficient, and Epileptic Persons in County.

AGE	Total	MARITAL STATUS				
		Single	Married	Separated divorced	Widowed	Not reported
Total.....	922	446	369	16	12	79
Under 21 years of age.....	166	140	11	1	-----	14
21-29 years of age.....	368	215	119	5	2	27
30-39 years of age.....	292	68	191	9	5	19
40-49 years of age.....	50	20	23	-----	3	4
50-59 years of age.....	21	2	16	-----	1	2
60 years or over.....	9	1	6	1	1	-----
Not reported	16	-----	3	-----	-----	13

Education and Occupation—The various agencies used different methods of indicating the educational attainments of individuals. Some agencies listed the grade completed while others merely showed the number of years the individual attended school. Often a Selective Service record classified an individual as illiterate although he claimed to have attended school for a number of years. This might indicate that the individual was mentally incapable of profiting by the instruction given. Likewise, the attendance might have been so irregular that, although capable of learning, the individual was unable to do so. In

the following table all such cases were tabulated according to the number of years that the individual claimed to have attended school. Some of the case records likewise indicated that the grade completed had little significance in relationship to the mental ability of the individual. "Social promotions" were made after the work of a grade had been repeated even if the individual had been unable to perform on a lower grade level. For the most part persons having the greatest amount of education were found to have a diagnosis indicating potential mental illness rather than mental deficiency.

Table 4. Occupation and Education of Potential Mentally Ill, Mentally Deficient, and Epileptic Person in County.

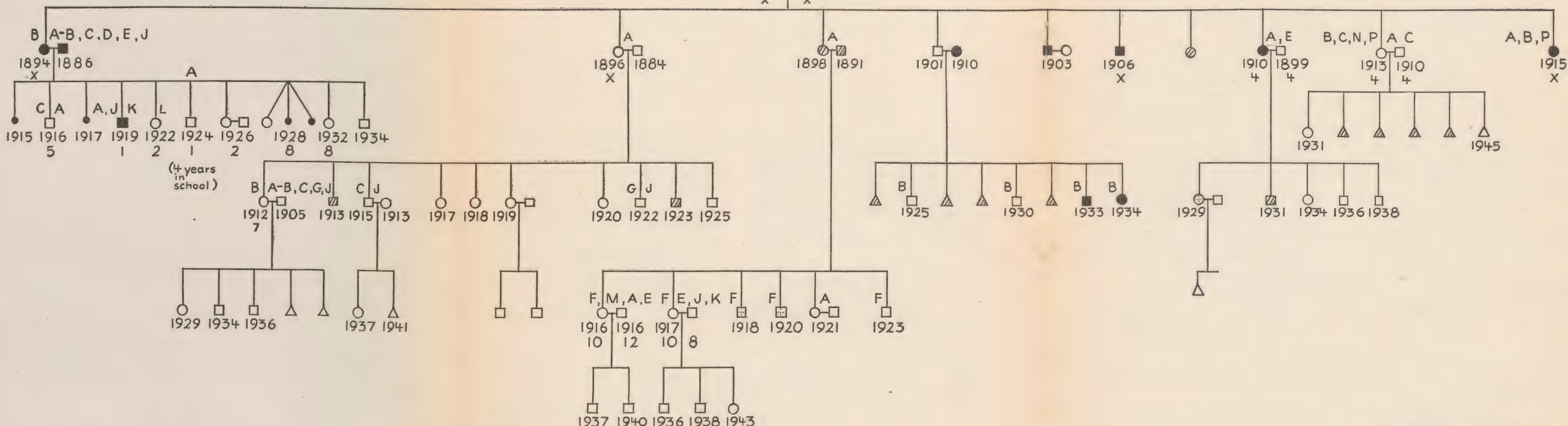
OCCUPATION	Total	EDUCATION								
		None	Grade completed				Grade completed unknown Years attended school			
			1-3	4-7	8-12	College Work	1-3	4-7	8-12	Not reported
Total.....	922	95	33	44	121	22	157	319	13	118
Farm laborer	216	30	2	3	32	.....	52	89	2	6
Saw mill laborer	66	10	2	.....	2	.....	26	26	.....	.....
Other laborer	152	14	1	2	17	.....	31	77	4	6
Textile worker	63	6	1	1	5	.....	11	36	1	2
Janitorial & other service work	49	3	2	5	9	1	7	16	2	4
Farm tenant	40	4	.....	2	3	.....	11	17	.....	3
Vehicle driver	29	2	.....	.....	6	.....	2	17	.....	2
Aircraft or munitions factory worker	21	.....	.....	.....	1	1	5	12	2	.....
Furniture factory worker	15	.....	1	.....	1	.....	7	6	.....	.....
Other	63	1	.....	.....	18	18	1	18	2	5
None	41	8	9	6	1	.....	1	2	.....	14
Not reported	167	17	15	25	26	2	3	3	.....	76

FAMILY CHART

B, C A-B

1869 1875

X X



Key to Chart

Sex: Male □, female ○, unknown △
 Stillborn ●
 Known mental deficiency; I.Q. under 70: ■ ●
 Known I.Q. 70 to 100: ▨, ⊕
 Deceased: ▩, ⊗, △

A—Family received financial assistance
 B—Venereal disease
 C—Alcoholism
 D—Sexual immorality
 E—Separated
 F—Institutional care

Key to Letters

G—Commitment to penal institution
 H—Irrregular school attendance
 J—Court records
 K—Dishonorable discharge or discharge for good of the service
 L—Truancy

M—Mental illness
 N—Deafness
 P—Blindness

School Grade Completed

X—Illiterate
 1—1st grade
 2—2nd grade
 3—3rd grade
 4—4th grade
 5—5th grade
 6—6th grade
 7—7th grade
 8—8th grade
 9—9th grade
 10—10th grade
 11—11th grade
 12—12th grade

The occupational classifications shown above indicate unskilled labor for most of the individuals, resulting in a low economic status. Most of the occupations shown as "other" were skilled occupations or professions and were usually held by persons classified as mentally ill.

Institutional Care—One hundred fifty-six of the persons included in the study were known to have been inmates of an institution during some period. Listed below are the types of institutions in which they were or had been inmates.

Table 5. Institutional Care Received by Potential Mentally Ill, Mentally Deficient, and Epileptic Persons in County.

Type of Institution	Total
Total.....	156
Hospital for mentally ill	102
Federal or State penal institution	34
Institution for feeble-minded	12
Other institution	4
More than one institution	4

Court Records—Thirty per cent or 272 of the persons included in the study had court records within the county other than those for commitment to State institutions for the mentally ill or defective. No attempt was made to secure information regarding court records outside the county. The frequency of court hearings is significant. There was only one hearing each for 126 persons; 2 hearings each for 59 persons, 3 hearings each for 36 persons, 4 hearings each for 18 persons, 5

hearings each for 5 persons, 6 hearings each for 6 persons, 7 hearings each for 2 persons, 8 hearings each for 4 persons, 10 hearings each for 3 persons, 15 hearings each for 2 persons, and 21 hearings each for 3 persons. The 8 remaining people had 9 hearings, 11 hearings, 12 hearings, 14 hearings, 16 hearings, 19 hearings, 20 hearings and 26 hearings. The following table shows the type of charges made at the hearings.

Table 6. Court Records of Potential Mentally Ill, Mentally Deficient, and Epileptic Persons in County.

Type of charge at hearing	Number of hearings	Description of charge
Total.....	800	
Drunkenness	133	
Assault with deadly weapon	107	
Various degrees of larceny	107	Burglary, larceny, receiving stolen property, robbery, stealing, theft.
Traffic charges	104	Driving without license, driving auto while drunk, hit-and-run, improper lights and brakes, loaning license, reckless driving, speeding.
Disorderly conduct	99	Affray, assault, fighting, resisting officer.
Liquor charges	70	Possession, manufacture or sale of whiskey.
Trespassing	24	Breaking and entering, trespassing.
Sex offenses	32	Abduction, adultery, assault on female, bastardy, crime against nature, indecent exposure, prostitution, seduction, using hotel room for immoral purposes.
Carrying concealed weapon	19	
Gambling	19	
Non-support	7	
Death of person	6	Manslaughter, murder.
Injury to property	6	
Miscellaneous	17	Accessory to crime, embezzlement, forgery, neglect, perjury, operating slot machine, vagrancy, setting fire.
Not reported	50	

Intelligence Quotient—Of the 922 persons included in the study, an intelligence quotient was given for only 132. A definite determination of mental ability might have been made in other cases in which only a general diagnosis was

given, such as low-grade moron. The following table shows the intelligence quotient and diagnosis for the individuals for whom the information was available.

Table 7. Intelligence Quotient and Mental Condition of Potential Mentally Ill, Mentally Deficient, and Epileptic Persons in County.

Intelligence quotient	Total	Mental condition			
		Epilepsy	Mental defect only	Psychoneurosis	Constitutional psychopathic
Total.....	132	3	127	1	1
20 to 29	4	---	4	---	---
30 to 39	7	2	5	---	---
40 to 49	28	1	27	---	---
50 to 59	35	---	35	---	---
60 to 69	44	---	44	---	---
70 to 79	13	---	12	---	1
80 to 89	---	---	---	---	---
90 to 99	1	---	---	1	---

Persons Known to Eugenics Board—Since the county being studied had more sterilization operations in proportion to its population than any other county, it was felt that the experience in handling these cases might be beneficial to the Eugenics Board, other county departments of public welfare, and superintendents of institutions for the mentally ill or deficient. Following is a detailed analysis of the 52 cases known to the Eugenics Board, 40 on whom sterilization operations were performed and 12 for whom operations were authorized but not performed during the time that the individual resided within the county.

Information Relative to Sterilization Operations

Performed — Sterilization operations authorized by the Eugenics Board have been performed upon 40 persons who were residents of the county. Petitions for 30 of these operations were initiated by the county superintendent of public welfare and 10 by the superintendent of the State institution in which the person was an inmate. Seventeen of the 40 persons were known to have been inmates of institutions. Thirteen persons were known to have never resided in an institution. Information was not available regarding possible institutional residence of ten persons. The following table shows the source of the petition and the type of institution in which the person was or had previously been an inmate.

Table 8. Source of Sterilization Petition by Type of Institution of Present or Previous Residence.

Source of petition	Total	Type of institution							
		State Hospital	Institution for feeble-minded	Training school	County home	School for blind	Rapid Treatment Center	None	Not reported
Total.....	40	8	2	2	2	1	2	13	10
Superintendent of public welfare	30	---	---	2	2a/	1	2	13	10
Superintendent of institution	10	8b/	2	---	---	---	---	---	---

a/ One person had previously been in a boarding home.

b/ Two patients were in a State Hospital twice.

Most of the operations were performed upon young single girls, only three being on married persons and only eight on men. Information in many of the case records shows that parents and personnel of the county department of public

welfare were concerned about actual and potential sex delinquencies which might result in children being born out of wedlock. The following tables show the age, sex, marital status, and race of persons having sterilization operations.

Table 9. Sterilization Operations, by Age and Sex.

Sex	Total	AGE											
		13 yrs.	14 yrs.	15 yrs.	16 yrs.	17 yrs.	18 yrs.	19 yrs.	20 yrs.	21 to 25 yrs.	25 to 30 yrs.	30 to 40 yrs.	40 yrs. and over
Total	40	1	5	3	7	3	3	3	4	5	4	1	1
Male	8	---	---	1	2	1	---	---	1	---	1	1	1
Female	32	1	5	2	5	2	3	3	3	5	3	---	---

Table 10. Sterilization Operations, by Race and Marital Status.

Race	Total	Marital status			
		Single	Married	Separated	Divorced
Total.....	40	35	3	1	1
White	18	17	1	---	---
Negro	22	18	2	1	1

Since approximately one-third of the population of this county is Negro, it might appear that the number of operations performed upon Negroes was out of proportion. There were, however, twelve additional operations authorized which were not performed. Of the total 52 peti-

tions which were filed 29 were for white persons and 23 for Negroes.

Most of the petitions were filed on the basis of feeble-mindedness (Table 11). Hence little or no formal education would be expected. Table 12 shows the grade completed according to the location of the person sterilized.

Table 11. Diagnosis and Intelligence Quotient of Persons Sterilized.

Diagnosis	Total	Intelligence quotient											
		21 to 25	26 to 30	31 to 35	36 to 40	41 to 45	46 to 50	51 to 55	56 to 60	61 to 65	66 to 70	71 to 75	Not re- ported
Total.....	40	1	2	3	1	2	6	5	3	2	1	1	13
Feeble-mindedness.....	32	1	2	3	1	2	6	5	3	2	1	1	5
Psychosis with low mentality.....	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	3
Psychosis.....	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2
Epilepsy.....	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	2
Psycho-pathic personality with low mentality.....	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1

Table 12. Education and Location of Persons Sterilized.

Location	Total	Grade completed										Not reported
		None	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	
Total.....	40	9	1	4	2	7	5	2	4	2	1	3
Urban.....	22	4	1	3a/	1	4	4	2	2c/	---	---	1
Rural.....	17	4	---	1	1	3b/	1	---	2	2	1	2
Not reported.....	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

a/ Although promoted from the 2nd grade, one person is known to be illiterate.

b/ One person had been given a promotion although unable to do the work of the previous grade.

c/ One person was reported as doing the equivalent of 3rd gradework.

The operations were usually performed within a short time after the authorization was received from the Eugenics Board, 52 per cent of them being performed in less than one month. The fol-

lowing table shows the lapse of time between the authorization and the performance of the operation.

Table 13. Time Lapse Between Authorization and Performance of Operation, by Source of Petition.

Source of petition	Total	Time lapse							
		Less than 1 month	1 to 2 months	2 to 3 months	3 to 4 months	4 to 5 months	5 to 6 months	6 to 12 months	12 months or more
Total.....	40	21	9	3	---	3	---	2	2
County.....	30	15	7	2	---	3	---	1	2
Institution.....	10	6	2	1	---	---	---	1	---

In one case where the operation was performed more than a year after the authorization, the county department of public welfare had to do a great deal of interpretation to the woman and her family. The woman was hospitalized for the operation but refused to sign a form used routinely by the hospital for all surgical cases. Four days later when she still refused to sign the form in spite of all possible interpretation by social workers, physicians and members of her family, she was discharged from the hospital. Several months later, after she consented to sign the form, she was re-admitted to the hospital but was found to be pregnant so was discharged again. Both the county department of public welfare and the county health department continued working with the family. About a year and a half later they succeeded in getting the woman re-admitted to the hospital only to find that she was again 2½ to 3 months pregnant necessitating postponement of the operation. Approximately 5½ years after the original authorization was given the operation was performed. The county department of public welfare stated that ignorance, superstition

and naive religious ideas were responsible for the long delay.

From the medical histories submitted by physicians 22 of the 40 persons were known to be sex offenders. Nineteen were diagnosed as being sexually promiscuous. One had been found guilty of incest, another had been held in the county jail because of indecent exposure and another for trespassing, including being a "peeping tom". One 19 year old girl had been committed to the county home because of uncontrolled sexual desire. There was evidence that another one of the nineteen had also been guilty of frequent indecent exposure but no court action had been taken. Four of the twenty-two were known to the juvenile court. Five of these persons were found to have syphilis and eight gonorrhea. Except for these sex offenses, there were only five other records of offenses committed in the county. These were one each for larceny, first degree burglary, drunken driving, possession of whiskey, and attempted suicide.

Twelve of the persons sterilized were known to have had 29 children born to them prior to the

filing of the petitions. Four persons had one child each, four persons two children each, three persons three children each, and one person eight children. Twelve of these children were born to women who were unmarried when the petitions were filed. Two were born to a woman whose husband had been in prison more than a year prior to the birth of the oldest child, resulting in the marriage terminating in divorce. The mother of the two other children was single at the time of their births but later married the alleged father. The mother of seven children gave birth to her eighth child more than a year following the desertion of her husband. This makes a total of 17 of the 29 children born out of wedlock. Three of the women were known to have had one abortion each. Two women who were pregnant when the petitions were filed desired to be sterilized at the time of confinement.

Of the above 29 children, 5 were deceased when the petitions were filed. Four died during infancy and the fifth died at the age of 15 years in a State institution for epileptics. Of the remaining 24, twenty were with their own parent or parents. Because of the limited ability of their parents, responsibility for rearing four of these twenty children fell upon other persons. The 24 children had the following living arrangements:

With both parents	1
With mother	10
With father	3
With mother and step-father	2
With mother and maternal grand-parents....	1
With mother and maternal grandmother.....	1
With mother and maternal great aunt.....	2
With maternal grandmother	2
With distant relative	1
Placed for adoption	1
Total.....	24

A limited amount of information is available regarding the desirability of the above living arrangements. Some were known to be undesirable. For instance the child living with the mother and maternal grandmother also shared the home with an aunt who was a low-grade imbecile, her twin daughters born out of wedlock, and an uncle who was not strong enough to work, was illiterate, had a serious speech defect and was suspected of being feeble-minded. The home was usually extremely dirty. The mother was unable to provide care or training to the

child leaving this entirely to the grandmother who gave little attention to the child.

Two children not only shared the home with their mother and maternal great aunt but also with five other people. These included a feeble-minded aunt whose intelligence quotient was 27, a great uncle, and three second cousins. Their mother was unable to provide care, having been totally dependent upon her aunt for her own care and support for about nine years.

Seven of the children lived with their mother in "an old dilapidated" house. The mother had the reputation of "running around" and of neglecting her children. They, however, were fairly regular in school attendance and the older children attempted to find odd jobs.

Only a limited amount of information is available regarding the physical and mental condition of the 24 children. In 1947 they fell within the the following age groups:

1 to 5 years.....	9
6 to 10 years.....	6
11 to 15 years.....	3
16 to 20 years.....	5
21 to 25 years.....	1
Total.....	24

One child at the age of 34 months had not attempted to crawl or talk. Another child when 8 months of age had made no attempt to sit alone. One child at the age of 11 months was said to be usually smiling. She seldom cried and had made no attempt to sit alone. One girl at the age of seven failed in school. It is stated that one girl, 19 years of age, would complete high school the following spring. Five of the children from one family participated in group testing of grade school children. The following are the intelligence quotients received as a result of these tests—57, 63, 76, 82 and 83. One child in a family of three children was known definitely to be feeble-minded.

In three of the 38 cases the operation of asexualization was authorized and performed. In the remaining 35 cases either a vasectomy or salpingectomy was performed. The three cases of asexualization were the two who had been indecently exposing themselves and the one who had been found guilty of incest. All three cases involved boys 15, 16 and 17 years of age. Physicians carefully explained the nature of the operation to the families involved. The parents realized that the operation might produce a marked

and lasting change in personal functions including reduced sexual excitability but that the results could not be guaranteed. All chose to have this type of operation performed. Two of the operations were performed in State hospitals to which the boys had been committed following their arrests. The third operation was performed in a local hospital.

*Operations Authorized but not Performed—*Twelve operations which were authorized were not performed although two of these persons were later sterilized following the filing of a second petition. One petition was filed by the superintendent of a State institution to which one person had been committed and another petition by a county superintendent of public welfare in another county into which the family had moved. Since the operations were not performed as a result of petitions filed by the county superintendent in the county studied, they are not included in the statistics relating to the 40 persons sterilized.

Petitions for three of the above cases were filed by State institutions. In one instance where the diagnosis was manic depressive psychosis the patient's condition was said to be functional in character. The operation was not performed due to objections of the patient and her family. They signed consents prior to the filing of the petition but changed their minds. In the other two cases the diagnosis was mental deficiency with psychosis. In one instance the patient escaped from the hospital before the operation was performed and was never returned. No reason is given for the third operation not being performed.

Of the nine petitions filed by the county superintendent of public welfare five were for members of the same family group and three others were for a mother and her son and daughter. Consents could not be secured from any of the five persons in the first family group, all of whom were diagnosed as being feeble-minded. They had intelligence quotients of 48, 49, 52, 54 and 59. Notices were served on each of a hearing before the Eugenics Board. None of them appeared. On the basis of information available to the Board, operations were authorized on July 20, 1934. It was, however, impossible ever to persuade any one of the five to enter a hospital for the operation. Chart 2 indicates that this family has presented many social and health problems to the community including alcoholism, sexual promis-

cuity, syphilis, partial blindness and deafness, feeble-mindedness, and financial dependency. A number of the family have also been known to various courts. (Chart 2 follows page 6.)

In the case of the mother with an intelligence quotient of 42, her son with an intelligence quotient of 39 and her daughter with an intelligence quotient of 57, consents for the operations could not be secured. When they realized that petitions for sterilization were being filed, they moved to another county, apparently to avoid the hearing. The husband who was 20 years older than his wife, had an intelligence quotient of 50. Sterilization was not recommended for him because of his age and his general physical condition. Notices of hearings were served in the other county, but none of the family appeared for the hearings. Operations were authorized by the Board. A short time later the mother became ill, death resulting about a year later. The son was then committed to the State institution for feeble-minded where the operation was performed. The department of public welfare placed the daughter in a foster home. The father gave consent for a sterilization operation to be performed. Following the filing of a new petition, the operation was authorized and performed.

In the eighth case, a girl with an intelligence quotient of 68, the operation is still pending. The girl is extremely obese, and the surgeon states that the operation cannot be performed with safety until she has lost at least 100 pounds. The county department of public welfare is working with this family but the girl is losing weight very slowly since she is not following her diet.

Of the twelve operations which were not performed within the county, four were authorized for men and eight for women. The age range was 11 years to 40 years. Six were under 20 years of age, three were 20 to 30 years of age, two were 30 to 40 years of age and one was 40 years old. Four were married and eight were single. Only one is a Negro, the other 11 being white.

CONCLUSIONS

Information available for women is much more specific and factual than for men. Mental illness or deficiency was found for 1.1 per cent of the female population of the county. Information was found for 6.8 per cent of the male population indicating potential mental conditions. Excluding cases brought to attention through Selective Service records, the proportion for the male pop-

ulation becomes 0.96 per cent. Before definite conclusions could be drawn regarding this group, careful individual examinations would be needed. If information comparable to Selective Service information was available for the total female population, a somewhat larger percentage might be found to have a definite mental illness or deficiency. Likewise through careful examinations the percentage of the male population found to have definite mental illness or defects would probably be considerably lower.

Of the 40 operations performed through authorization of the Eugenics Board, only 8 were upon males. The County Superintendent of Public Welfare instituted the proceedings before the Eugenics Board in only 2 of these 8 cases. The remaining 6 were initiated by the superintendents of the State institutions of which the men were inmates. Staff members have indicated that men offer more objection to the operation than women. Frequently they are willing for the wife to have the operation but are unwilling to have it themselves. Much interpretation is needed to assure men that the operation is simple, and that its only effect is the prevention of parenthood.

Although information is available for persons falling within various age groups, sterilization through action of the Eugenics Board has been considered usually for only the younger age groups. Twenty-nine of the 40 operations performed were for persons 20 years of age or younger. Only 6 were performed on persons over 25 years of age. Sterilizations have likewise usually been limited to single individuals or married persons who were not living with the spouse. Only 3 of the 40 operations were performed on persons living with the spouse.

The State eugenics law specifically provides for the sterilization of persons who would be likely to procreate a child or children who would have a tendency to serious mental or nervous disease or deficiency.^{10/} It also provides for the sterilization of mentally ill, epileptic, or mentally deficient persons when it is for the best interest of the person or for the public good. If both the individual and society are to receive the maximum benefits from the legislation, consideration needs to be given to the filing of petitions for sterilization of mentally ill, epileptic, and mentally deficient persons falling within the other age groups and for married persons.

The low educational level attained by most of

the persons included in the study is definitely reflected in the large number of low income positions held by them. This may partially account for many of these families being known to the county department of public welfare. It is also an indication of the financial inability of most of these individuals to give adequate care and training to children, especially if their families become large.

Seventeen per cent of the persons included in the study were or had been inmates of county, State or federal institutions. Twelve per cent were known to have been in institutions for mentally ill or feeble-minded. Twenty-seven per cent of the persons included in the study were found to have court records within their home county because of having violated some law. This is exclusive of the court proceedings instituted for purposes of commitment to State institutions for mentally ill or feeble-minded. Sterilization operations were performed, through Eugenics Board action, for 4 per cent of the persons included in the study. This is 7.5 per cent of those known through agencies other than Selective Service. It is recognized that many persons committed to State institutions and more particularly those who have come into conflict with the law are not in need of sterilization. This form of treatment may, however, benefit many of these persons. It might make it easier for some to adjust more satisfactorily in their home community and prevent the reproduction of children who may later become dependent. Careful study should be made of such cases known to the State institutions and to the county departments of public welfare in order to determine the individuals who could benefit by sterilization.

Of the 922 persons included in the study, the intelligence quotient has been secured for 132. While mental tests had apparently been given to others, only a general diagnosis had been recorded. The intelligence quotients for 118 were below 70, and for 74, below 60. Next steps in discovering the feeble-minded would be the giving of individual tests to persons who had previously been studied only through group tests. Other persons suspected of low mentality would also need to be tested.

It is not possible, without a great deal of additional research, to estimate the financial cost to the community for caring for the family shown in chart 2. Some information is available regarding 89 persons, indicating that most of them have

^{10/} Section 35-39, General Statutes of North Carolina.

received some type of financial assistance. This has been in the form of general assistance, old-age assistance, aid to dependent children, boarding home placement, institutional care in homes for children, free medical care and hospitalization, and employment on projects of the Works Projects Administration and in Civilian Conservation Corps camps. In addition to this, there is the cost of court hearings, sentences served in the county jail, training schools, State prison and the road camps. This does not take into consideration other indirect costs such as medical treatment for other persons who have contracted a venereal infection from members of the family. Likewise it does not take into account the intangible factors which cannot be measured financially; such as lack of

care and training of children, broken homes, physical handicaps caused by such factors as deafness or partial blindness, a large number of miscarriages, still-births and deaths in early childhood and the frequent repetition of grades in school with "social promotion" to the next grade although the work of the previous grade had not been performed.

From one generation to the next the social, physical, and economic problems of the family group have continued to increase. Although the county must pay the cost of sterilization operations, it would be an economic saving to prevent the birth of more children into families of this type.

APPENDIX

The following schedule was used in making this study:

EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

No. _____ COUNTY SURVEY Date _____ 194 _____

Mental Defect ☐ Mental Disease ☐

Name _____ Age _____ Race _____ Sex _____ Kinship _____ to No. _____

Home Address _____ Present Location _____

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____ Legit. _____ Illegit. _____

Single _____ Married _____ Widowed _____ Separated _____ Divorced _____

Illit. _____ R _____ W _____ Completed Pub.Sch.Gr. _____ Grades Repeated _____ Other Ed. _____

Subject's Children

NAME	AGE	SEX	PRESENT LOCATION

Subject's Brothers and Sisters

Father's Name _____ Address _____

If Dead: Age at Death _____ Cause of Death _____

Mother's Name _____ Address _____

If Dead: Age at Death _____ Cause of Death _____

If Married: Name of Spouse _____ Address _____

If Parents Dead and Subject

not married: Next of Kin _____ Address _____

If Guardian appointed: Name _____ Address _____

Institutional Record of Subject

INSTITUTION	CAUSE	DATE ADM.	DATE DISCH.	DATE PAR.	DATE PAR. TERMIN.

Has Subject had mental exam. _____ Date _____ Place _____

Examiner _____ Result _____

Probable Diagnosis Subject's Mental and Physical Condition _____

Occupation, Social and Economic Status _____

Evidence of Abnormal or Anti-Social Behavior or Harmful Habits _____

Record of Defects

Check in *front* of defects those of subject and check *after* each defect those of subject's children, brothers, sisters, parents, uncles, aunts, or grandparents. If any of these had institutional care, give name of institution.

_____ Insanity _____	_____ Drug Addict _____
_____ Feeble-minded _____	_____ Criminality _____
_____ Epilepsy _____	_____ Sex Promiscuity _____
_____ Chorea _____	_____ Tuberculosis _____
_____ Extreme Nervousness _____	_____ Syphilis _____
_____ Suicidal Tendency _____	_____ Gonorrhea _____
_____ Paralysis _____	_____ Blindness _____
_____ Alcoholism _____	_____ Deafness _____

Court Record

NAME AND LOCATION OF COURT	DATE	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Record of Sterilization

Type of Operation _____ Date _____ Place _____

Under Eugenics Bd.: County _____ State Inst. _____ On Physical Grounds _____

Cost to: Public Funds _____ Family _____ Other _____

Notes on After Effects _____

Attitude of Subject and Relatives towards Sterilization _____

Total Costs to Public from 1935 to 1945

DPW Relief _____ Other Relief _____ DPW Services _____ DPH Services _____

Pub. Schools _____ County Home _____ Courts _____ Jail _____ Prison _____

State Institutions _____ Misc. _____

Information Received From

DPW _____ DPH _____ CSC _____ Sel. Ser. _____ Pub. Sch. _____ Red Cr. _____ Agr. Ext. _____ FSA _____ Drs. _____

Police _____ Sheriff _____ Local Leaders _____ Subj. _____ Rels. _____ Eug. Bd. _____ Other _____

Additional History or Remarks
(attach additional sheet if needed)

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